



Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

August 1, 2009
Morning Highlights 2009-47
Time: 12:00 pm

Contact:
Public Affairs (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: (800) 237-3633

Crazy Mountain Complex

A Type 2 Incident Management Team (IMT) assumed control of the Bluff Creek Fire as well as the Jagged Ridge, Puzzle Gulch and Little Black One Fires on Saturday, August 1 and will manage the fires as the Crazy Mountain Complex. The Bluff Creek Fire, located approximately 6 miles west of Circle, started July 26 and tripled in size to 18,000 acres on Friday, threatening the community of Circle and cabins along Birch Creek. The Midnight Sun Hotshots began suppression action on the Bluff Creek Fire on Friday, July 31 and were joined by the Stebbins Type 2 crew. Additional crews have been ordered. Water scooper CL215 aircraft have been ordered to help cool and slow the spread of the Bluff Creek fire. Their use has been delayed by low visibility caused by smoke.

Smoke In The Interior

Smoke from the Wood River 1 Fire and the Railbelt Complex continues to impact Fairbanks and interior communities. To learn about protecting yourself from wildland fire smoke, visit: <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>

Air Quality

At 9 am July 31, Fairbanks air quality was reported to be **Very Unhealthy** due to smoke. The air quality index is not updated over the weekend but conditions in Fairbanks remain smokey. Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

New Wildland Fires

Three new fires and one false alarm were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Friday. The Kanuti River Fire was discovered on satellite imagery in the Tanana Zone and is being monitored. The .2 acre Jarvis Creek Fire was plotted in the Military Zone. The Pioneer Peak Hotshots, several DOF engines and a helicopter responded to the fire and controlled it. It is being monitored. The Carpenter Corner Fire was reported in the Delta Area was reported to Delta Area. The cause of the fire was a tree over a powerline. GVEA de-energized the line and a DOF engine crew extinguished the .1 acre fire.

Statewide Fire Summary

As of 9 am Saturday, the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center tallied 469 fires and 2,081,293.7 acres burned this year. 72 fires are active across Alaska. 12 fires are staffed. At this time last year, 334 fires had burned 90,893 acres.

Staffed Fires

For information about staffed fires throughout Alaska, please visit the AICC Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>. Summary below, taken from Situation Report:

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Railbelt Complex	NW of Nenana		Type 2 Incident Mgt. Team
			Augusta Hotshots
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			Chena Hotshots
Minto Flats South	12 mi. W of Nenana		Delta #2 Type 2 crew
Lunch Lake	20 mi. NW of Nenana		Fairbanks #2 Type 2 crew
June Creek	21 mi. NW of Healy		Fairbanks #3 Type 2 crew
		422,447 acres	Great Northern T2IA
			Huslia #1 Type 2 crew
			Idaho Panhandle Hotshots
			Lewis & Clark #2 T2IA
			Lewis & Clark Hotshots
			Lolo Regulars #1 T2IA
			Mindewin Hotshots
			USFS Interagency T2IA
			Upper Tanana #3 Type 2
			Upper Tanana #4 Type 2
			Upper Tanana #5 Type 2
			Yukon T2IA crew
			331 personnel in Complex
Crazy Mountain Complex			
<i>Fires in Complex</i>			
Bluff Creek	6 mi. W of Circle	18,000 acres	53 personnel
			Stebbins Type 2 crew
			Midnight Suns Hotshots
Little Black One	18 mi. NE of Circle	292,907 acres	60 personnel
			Ft. Yukon #1 Type 2 crew
			Arctic Village Type 2 crew
Jagged Ridge		2,400 acres	
Puzzle Gulch		600 acres	
Wood River 1	25 mi. S of Fairbanks	87,597 acres	3 personnel

Fire Name	Approx. Location	Acres Burned	Fire Personnel
Rock Slough	50 mi. NE of Ft. Yukon	37,139 acres	107 personnel
			Allakaket #1 Type 2 crew
			Noorvik #1 Type 2 crew
			North Star Type 2 crew
			St. Michaels Type 2 crew
Stevens Creek 1		43,347 acres	2 personnel
Bear Creek	58 mi. W of Healy	50,633 acres	4 personnel
Zitziana	53 mi. W of Anderson	122,706 acres	39 personnel
			Denali Type 2 IA crew
Green Slough 2	13 mi. SE of Tanana	4.4 acres	8 personnel
Big Creek	60 mi. SW of Ft. Yukon	101,294 acres	12 personnel
Bear Paw	53 mi. W of Healy	1,637 acres	8 personnel
Chakina	13 mi. S of McCarthy	50,000 acres	30 personnel

Fire Information Phone Numbers

Wood River 1 Fire (south of Fairbanks): 907-388-7526. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: <http://inciweb.org/incident/1775/>

Railbelt Complex Fires (including the Minto Flats South, Lunch Lake, and June Creek Fire): 907-378-3843. Email for the Railbelt Complex may be sent to: mintoflatsouthfire@gmail.com. Additional information about the fire is being posted at: <http://inciweb.org/incident/1725/>

Chakina Fire (south of McCarthy): 907-529-0511, or the National Park Service Office in Anchorage at 907-644-3418. Email for the Chakina Fire may be sent to: ChakinaFireInfo@gmail.com. Information is also posted at www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/firemanagement.htm

Temporary Flight Restrictions

Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) are in place over the Minto Flats South Fire near Nenana, the Chakina Fire near McCarthy, Alaska and the Crazy Mountain Complex. Pilots should check NOTAMS for information about these fires. Specific TFR information may be found at: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>

Commercial, private and other non-firefighting aircraft pilots are asked to use caution in the vicinity of any wildland fire, even those without TFRs. Please be aware that fire aircraft may be working in or around a fire's perimeter. New fires should be reported to Flight Service Stations or 1-800-237-3633.

The Evergreen Supertanker may be used today on the Railbelt Complex if weather and fire conditions permit. Yesterday, thick smoke and low visibility precluded the demonstration. For more information, call 907-356-5511 and ask for Maggie.

Red Flag Warnings

There are no red flag warnings as of 12 pm today. Specific information about Red Flag Warnings and weather can be found at: <http://firewx.arh.noaa.gov/warnings.php>

Additional References

Air Quality information for the Fairbanks North Star Borough is posted at: <http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/>.

For daily fire information, please visit:

<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf> and for a map of fire locations, click on "Fire Information" at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Creating Defensible Space: <http://firewise.org/> and <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/06Firewise.pdf>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

Today's AICC Morning Highlights were compiled by Doug Stockdale and Diane Hunt, Alaska Fire Service.